THE MIGRANT

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society
to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee.
Issued in March, June, September, and December.

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The Migrant 79 (3): 58-59, 2008.

BLACK-NECKED STILTS AT RANKIN BOTTOMS, COCKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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On 7 May 2004 we canoed with Leslie Gibbens and Linda Wright around Rankin Bottoms, a well-known shorebird location at the upper end of Douglas Lake in Cocke County, Tennessee. We saw and heard several expected species of shorebirds, but about midday a bird call behind us caught our attention. We turned just in time to see two Black-necked Stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*) land about 70 meters away, in shallow (<10 cm deep) water.

This was the first sighting of this species in east Tennessee for at least two members of the party, and the stilts were a "life bird" for one member of the party. We watched the birds approximately 10 minutes before they flew, allowing us to study them in flight for approximately one minute before they disappeared, never to be relocated.

The birds we saw were lanky shorebirds with long necks, long bills, smallish heads, and long pointed wings. The birds' very long (nearly 1 ft) legs were pink. Their bills were long, straight, thin and black. Both were black on the back, nape, crown and most of sides of face. Each had one white spot above the eyes. Their rumps, seen in flight, were white. Undersides were white. A black band seemed to nearly encircle their necks. In flight their legs extended well beyond the very short tails. Digital photographs were taken by C. Muise.

The birds stayed in very close proximity to one another, mostly in shallow water with some emergent grass-like vegetation. At no point did we see them on dry land, and it is unlikely they would have been visible from any easily accessible land, such as the road to the coal tipple. Most of the wildlife habitat at Rankin Bottoms cannot be viewed from dry land at higher lake elevations (above 985 ft). A small boat is essential for a thorough survey of the area.

We did not realize the significance of this sighting immediately, but we have since discovered that this sighting represented only the second record of Black-necked Stilt in east Tennessee. Since then there have been three more records. To our knowledge the other records of Black-necked Stilt in East Tennessee include:

- 1 August 1985: one bird at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, Anderson County (Fowler 1986);
- 9-24 October 2004: one bird in Blount County (Knight 2005),
- 13 October 2004: one bird at Austin Springs, Washington County (Knight 2005), and
- 29 April 2006: one bird in Cumberland County (Knight 2006).

The record reported here was unanimously accepted by the Tennessee Bird Records Committee (Edwards 2006).

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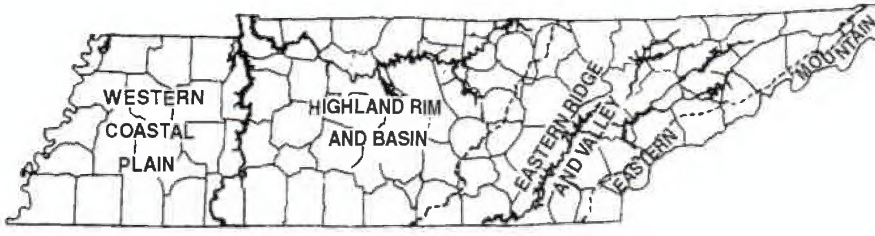
The Migrant 79 (3): 60-71, 2008

THE SPRING SEASON

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, Editor



1 MARCH - 31 MAY 2008

Normal to slightly above normal temperatures prevailed this season, while seasonal rainfall was a bit below normal. Much of the eastern half of the state still felt some effects of long-term drought conditions. Migration appeared to progress normally.

Rare waterfowl included Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Memphis and a Cinnamon Teal in Lincoln County, plus a smattering of Ross's Geese and scoters. Eared Grebes were found at four sites, but not at their recent stronghold on South Holston Lake. Among raptors were noteworthy reports of Swallow-tailed Kite in West Tennessee and Mississippi Kite in the East, plus two reports of Northern Goshawk. Shorebirds made a good showing, with multiple reports of Willets and White-rumped Sandpipers, plus Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits in the West, avocets in the two western regions, and a few phalaropes. A Thayer's Gull was a rare find, while two reports of Laughing Gull and three of Lesser Black-backed Gull were good.

A White-winged Dove and a Townsend's Solitaire in West Tennessee were stunning observations, as was a Painted Bunting in Knoxville. Warbler numbers seemed normal for recent times, but two separate reports of the Audubon's sub-species of Yellow-rumped Warbler were unexpected. Lingering nuthatches and finches were widespread following last winter's good boreal flight.

Standard Abbreviations

ad-adult	lrs-latest reported sighting
Co-County	max-maximum count
Cr-Creek	m.ob.-many observers
ers-earliest reported sighting	Mtn-Mountain
et al.-and others	NWR-National Wildlife Refuge
fide-reported by	R-River
im-immature	SP-State Park
Is-Island	WMA-Wildlife Management Area
L-Lake	yg-young

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION — The season was only slightly warmer and drier than normal. By most accounts, shorebirds and other migrants appeared in good, but not extraordinary, numbers. As noted in the winter report, it was a good year for irruptives. Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches, and Pine Siskins were widespread, numerous, and stayed late. Fish Crows continued a recent trend of population growth. The obvious goodies were both species of whistling-ducks, both godwits, White-winged Dove, Townsend's Solitaire, and the increasing numbers of Western Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in the Memphis area. And Swallow-tailed Kite ain't bad!

Duck-Crane: **BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK**: 8 May (16) EARTH Complex (JRW, Robert Gooch). **FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK**: 18 May (17) EARTH Complex (VBR, CHB, JaW, JRW). **Surf Scoter**: 13 / 24 Mar (1) Paris Landing, Henry Co (MCT). **Black Scoter**: 5 Apr (1) TVA Lake, Shelby Co (JRW). **Common Loon**: 17 May (2) Pickwick L. (RHC), lrs. **Eared Grebe**: 9 Mar (2) Pickwick L. (JRW); 13 Mar (1) Britton Ford, Henry Co (MCT). **Anhinga**: 8 Apr (1) near Brownsville, Haywood Co (JRW); 26 Apr / 31 May (1 / 2) Shelby Forest, Shelby Co (Rack Cross, RLK / CHB et al.); 16 May (1) Eagle L., Shelby Co (JRW). **American White Pelican**: 16 May (80, flying over) Eagle L., Shelby Co (JRW), lrs. **American Bittern**: 9 Mar / 20 Apr (1) Black Bayou (NaM / MCT, JRW); 15 Mar (1) EARTH Complex (JRW); 25 Mar (1) Dyer Co (SGS). **Snowy Egret**: 17 Apr (1) Gibson Co (MCT), ers. **Cattle Egret**: 14 Apr (1) Carroll Co (MCT), ers. **Swallow-tailed Kite**: 7 May (1) Hatchie Bottoms, Haywood Co (JRW). **Mississippi Kite**: 5 May (2) Eaton Bottoms, Gibson Co (MAG); 20 May (2) Carroll Co (MCT). **Northern Goshawk**: 9 Mar (1 sub-adult) McNairy Co (JRW). **Peregrine Falcon**: 28 Apr (1) Lake Co (RLK); 3 May (2) EARTH Complex (JRW); 5 May (1) Chickasaw NWR, Lauderdale Co (MCT). **Common Moorhen**: 5 May (1) Chickasaw NWR, Lauderdale Co (MCT). **Sandhill Crane**: 20 Apr (1) Lake Co (MCT, JRW); 8 May (small flock) Shelby Co (Robert Gooch).

Plover-Tern: **Black-bellied Plover**: 26 Apr / 11 May / 16 May (4 / 1 / 6) EARTH Complex (JRW, JaW et al.); 5 May (1) Lake Co (MCT); 8 May (1) N. Memphis (JaW). **American Golden-Plover**: 14 Mar (4) Obion Co (MAG), ers; 20 Apr (60) Dyer Co (MCT, JRW), max. **Black-necked Stilt**: 2 Apr (14) N. Memphis (JaW), ers; thru period (100+, 50 nests) EARTH Complex (m.ob.); 20 Apr (10+ pairs) Dyer & Lake Cos (MCT, JRW). **American Avocet**: 14-21 May (1) N. Memphis (JaW). **Solitary Sandpiper**: 3 May (300+) EARTH Complex (JRW, MCT), max. **Willet**: 16 Apr (1) N. Memphis (JaW); 20 Apr (5) Dyer Co (MCT, JRW); 26 Apr (31) EARTH Complex (JRW et al.). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 2 Mar (4) Black Bayou (NaM), ers. **Upland Sandpiper**: 27 Mar (3) Shelby Farms (JRW). **Hudsonian Godwit**: 11 May (1) EARTH Complex (JRW, Gail King). **Marbled Godwit**: 19 Apr (1) Gibson Co (MCT); 8 May (2) EARTH Complex (JRW). **Ruddy Turnstone**: 11 May (1) EARTH Complex (JRW). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 6 Apr (1) Gibson Co (MCT), new early date for West Tenn. **Western Sandpiper**: 26 Apr (8) EARTH Complex (JRW). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 5-14 May (5-112) EARTH Complex (JRW, MCT). **Baird's Sandpiper**:

27 Mar (2) Shelby Farms (JRW); 5 / 9 May (1) EARTH Complex (JRW / MCT). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: 9 Mar (2) Black Bayou (NaM), ers. **Dunlin**: 1 Apr (1) Gibson Co (MCT); 3-20 May (1-17) EARTH Complex (JRW, MCT); 8 May (7) N. Memphis (JaW). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 20 Apr (7) Lake Co (MCT, JRW), ers; 8 May (264) EARTH Complex (JRW), max. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 27 Mar (2) Shelby Farms (JRW), ers; 3 May (24) EARTH Complex (JRW, MCT), max. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 20 Apr (40+) Lake & Dyer Cos (MCT, JRW); 26 Apr (104) EARTH Complex (JRW). **Wilson's Phalarope**: 4 Apr (1) Dyer Co (JRW), new early date for state; 3-20 May (6-22) EARTH Complex (JRW, MCT). **THAYER'S GULL**: 9 / 29 Mar (1 im) Pickwick Dam (JRW). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: 9 Mar (1 ad, 2 im) Pickwick Dam (JRW); 18 Mar (1 ad) Britton Ford, Henry Co (MCT, Paul Lehman). **Caspian Tern**: 29 Mar (12) Pickwick Dam (JRW). **Forster's Tern**: 29 Mar (3) Pickwick Dam (JRW).

Dove-Thrush: **WHITE-WINGED DOVE**: 19 May (1) McKenzie, Carroll Co (MCT, photos). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 3 May (1) Eagle L., Shelby Co (MCT). **Barn Owl**: 7 Apr (1) Gibson Co (MAG). **Short-eared Owl**: 21 Mar (1) Dyer Co (SGS). **Chimney Swift**: 31 Mar (1) Gibson Co (MAG), ers. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 12 May (1) Shelby Farms (VBR). **Alder Flycatcher**: 3 May (1) EARTH Complex (JRW, MCT). **Western Kingbird**: 26 Apr (3) Shelby Co (JRW), ers, with 20+ birds & 10 nests by season's end in Shelby Co. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 5-31 May (pair / nest-building on 31 May) President's Is., Shelby Co (JRW); 19 May (pair, nest building) Coffee Landing, Hardin Co (Jack Paul, R.J. Moore, Damien Simbeck). **"Western Kingbird x Scissor-tailed Flycatcher"**: 5 May (1 female, hybrid) Shelby Co (JRW), returning bird. **White-eyed Vireo**: 20 Mar (3) Dyer Co (MAG), ers. **Fish Crow**: 9-12 Mar (nest-building) Robco L., Shelby Co / Hatchie Bottoms, Haywood Co / near Pickwick Dam (JRW); late Mar (flocks of 67 and 84 birds) dump in S. Memphis (JRW), max; 1-2 Apr (10+) Carroll Co (MCT); 17 Apr / 5 May (4+) Gibson Co (MAG). **Barn Swallow**: 13 Mar (1) Pace Point, Henry Co (MCT), ers. **Brown Creeper**: 5 May (1) Gibson Co (MAG), late migrant or breeder? **Carolina Wren**: 18 Mar (nest with 4 yg) Trenton, Gibson Co (MAG), new early date for nestlings in state according to Breeding Bird Atlas. **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE**: 20-21 Apr (1) Herb Parson's L., Fayette Co (Allen Sparks-photo). **Hermit Thrush**: 30 Apr (1) Reelfoot L., Obion Co (MCT), lrs.

Warbler-Siskin: **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 20 Mar (1) Dyer Co (MAG), ers. **Northern Parula**: 25 Mar (2) Dyer Co (SGS), ers. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 20 Mar (1) Dyer Co (MAG), new early date in West Tenn. **Swainson's Warbler**: 21 Apr (1 each) Carroll & Henry Cos. (MCT), ers. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 13 Mar (1) Henry Co (MCT), ers. **Kentucky Warbler**: 20 Mar (1) Dyer Co (MAG), new early date in state. **Mourning Warbler**: 5 May (1) Gibson Co (MAG); 20 May (1) Carroll Co (MCT). **Hooded Warbler**: 25 Mar (1) Dyer Co (SGS), new early date in state. **Scarlet Tanager**: 3 May (2, nest) Shelby Co (DDP). **Lark Sparrow**: 19 / 29 Apr (1 each) separate Carroll Co sites (MCT); 5 May (1) Gibson Co (MAG). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 26 Apr (1) EARTH Complex (JRW); 28 Apr (2) Black Bayou (RLK); 5 May (2) Gibson

Co (MAG). **Harris's Sparrow**: 1-21 Apr (1) Carroll Co (MCT, m.ob.). **Painted Bunting**: 3 May (1) EARTH Complex (JRW, MCT); 10 May (3) N. Memphis (JRW). **Purple Finch**: 7 Mar / 25 May (119 / 2) Tipton Co (DDP), max / lrs. **Pine Siskin**: 7 Mar (142) Tipton Co (DDP), max.

Locations: Black Bayou-in Lake Co; EARTH Complex-in Shelby Co; Pickwick L-in Hardin Co; Shelby Farms-in Shelby Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION — For each of the three months in the spring season the average monthly temperature in Nashville was very close to normal. Rainfall in March and May was also typical for those months; however, April was very wet with over seven inches of rain, most of which came during the first two weeks of the month.

Goose-Gull: **Cackling Goose**: from 23 Jan thru 2 Mar (1) Shelby Park (Mark Hackney, m.ob.). **CINNAMON TEAL**: 27 Mar (1 male) Lincoln Co (Morris Williams). **White-winged Scoter**: 26 Mar (2) Woods Reservoir (DSw, Ruth Luckado, Lou Ann Partington). **Eared Grebe**: 13 Apr (1) Woods Reservoir (DSw). **American White Pelican**: 2 Mar (3) Old Hickory L. (JKS); 2 May (19) Woods Reservoir (DSw). **Double-crested Cormorant**: 13 Mar (2 on nests) Pear Is., Percy Priest L., Davidson Co (RHC et al.). **American Bittern**: 29 Apr (1) Fort Campbell (DMo, SGS); 29 Apr (1) White Co (Douglas Downs, SJS). **Snowy Egret**: 19 Mar (1) Cane Cr. Park, Putnam Co (SJS), new early date for Co.; 4 May (1) Drake's Cr., Old Hickory L. (CAS). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 16 Apr (3 active nests) Murfreesboro (TJW). **Northern Harrier**: 11 Apr (8) Fort Campbell (DMo), good number for late date. **Broad-winged Hawk**: 6 Apr (1) Bellevue, Davidson Co (FCF), ers. **Peregrine Falcon**: 9 Mar (1) Bell's Bend, Davidson Co (Ed Byrne). **Sora**: 29 Apr (2) Fort Campbell (DMo, SGS). **Whooping Crane**: from Dec thru 16 Mar (2) Bell's Bend, Davidson Co (Patrick March), lrs; these marked birds were reported back at Necedah NWR, Wisconsin, on 30 Mar. **American Avocet**: 14 May (17) Old Hickory L. (Jack Brown). **Willet**: 3 May (7) Cheatham Co (Joe Stone, Sabin Thompson); 3 May (1) Maury Co (fide TE). **Upland Sandpiper**: 29 Apr (1) Fort Campbell (DMo, SGS). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 4 May (1) Gallatin Steam Plant, Sumner Co (CAS). **Dunlin**: 4 May (1) Gallatin Steam Plant, Sumner Co (CAS); 14 May (3) Old Hickory L. (Jack Brown). **Laughing Gull**: 26 Apr (3) Percy Priest L., Davidson Co (TJW). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: 26 Mar (1 ad) Woods Reservoir (DSw).

Dove-Flycatcher: **Eurasian Collared-Dove**: 2 Apr (2) Tullahoma, Franklin Co (Ruth Luckado). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 28 Apr (2) Radnor L (Carole Gobert); 17 May (1) Shelby Bottoms (Michael Bernard, PDC, MAZ). **Barn Owl**: 23 Mar (1) Marshall Co (DMo). **Chuck-will's-widow**: 17 Apr (1) Putnam Co (Janie Finch),

ers. **Whip-poor-will**: 6 Apr (1) Putnam Co (Ginger Ensor), ers. **Chimney Swift**: 4 Apr (100+) downtown Nashville (CAS), ers. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 3 Apr (1) Lynchburg, Moore Co (Laura McCall), ers. **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 27 Apr / 11 May (1) Radnor L (Leslie Ann Rawlings / CAS); 12 May (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC); 16 May (1) Hardin Co (Allan Trently); 22 May (1) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Eastern Wood-Pewee**: 20 Apr (1) Radnor L (JKS), ers. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 10-11 May (2-4) Radnor L (CAS); 17 May (1) Murfreesboro (TJW); 28 May (1) Fort Campbell (DMo); 28 / 31 May (1) Radnor L (JKS / CAS). **Acadian Flycatcher**: 27 Apr (1) Radnor L (JKS), ers. **Alder Flycatcher**: 9 May (1) Radnor L (PDC, FCF, JKS); 10 / 13 / 17 May (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC, TJW, FCF, MAZ); 12 / 21 May (1) Hohenwald (WMP); 22 May (1) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Willow Flycatcher**: 9 May (1) Bellevue, Davidson Co (FCF), ers; 13 May (3) Shelby Bottoms (PDC, FCF). **Least Flycatcher**: 9 May (2) Radnor L (PDC, FCF). **Eastern Kingbird**: 4 Apr (1) Radnor L (JKS), ers. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 3 / 9 May (pair, nest building on latter date) Florence Rd., Rutherford Co (David Kirschke / SGS); 3 / 9 May (pair / 2 pair) Lytle Cr. Rd., Rutherford Co (TJW / SGS).

Vireo-Pipit: **White-eyed Vireo**: 7 Apr (1) Fort Campbell (DMo), ers. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: 8 Apr (1) Fort Campbell (DMo), ers. **Warbling Vireo**: 6 May (1) Montgomery Co (DMo), ers. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 30 Apr (1) Radnor L (PDC), ers. **Horned Lark**: 11 Apr (8) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 2 Mar (1) Old Hickory L (JKS), new early date for Nashville area. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: 16 May (1) Fort Campbell (DMo), lrs. **Bewick's Wren**: 20 Apr thru season (1-2) Rutherford Co (TJW). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 27 Mar (1) Franklin Co (DSw), ers. **Veery**: 26 Apr (1) Radnor L (JKS), ers. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: 23 Apr (1) Radnor L (RHC), ers. **Wood Thrush**: 9 Apr (1) Putnam Co (SJS, Barbara Stedman), ers. **American Pipit**: 21 Mar (1) Warren Co (SNM), lrs.

Warblers: **Blue-winged Warbler**: 8 Apr (1) Radnor L (FCF), ers. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 27 Apr (1) Radnor L (PDC, MAZ), ers. **Tennessee Warbler**: 19 Apr (1) Shelby Park (Barbara Harris, NTOS), ers; 28 May (1) Radnor L (Kevin Bowden), lrs. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 14 Apr (1) Putnam Co (SJS); 19 Apr (1) Shelby Park (Barbara Harris, NTOS). **Northern Parula**: 4 Apr (1) Radnor L (Sharon Monroe), ers. **Yellow Warbler**: 11 Apr (1) Cookeville (Michael O'Rourke), ers. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 22 Apr (1) Ellington Ag. Center (JKS), ers. **Magnolia Warbler**: 25 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC, Michael Smith), ers. **Cape May Warbler**: 27 Apr (1) Radnor L (PDC, MAZ), ers. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 3 May (1) Shelby Park (PDC, Michael Smith). **"AUDUBON'S" YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER**: 27 Apr (1 male) Bear Cr. Refuge, Land Between the Lakes, Stewart Co (TJW). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 28 Mar (1) Hohenwald (WMP), ers. **Prairie Warbler**: 10 Apr (1 each) Radnor L / Fort Campbell (FCF / DMo), ers. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: 2 May (1) Radnor L (JKS), ers. **Blackpoll Warbler**: 23 Apr (1) Maury Co (TE), ers; 9 May (35+) Radnor L (PDC, FCF), max. **Cerulean Warbler**: 12 Apr (1) Edgar Evins SP, DeKalb Co (SJS, EKL), ers. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 29 Mar (1) Ellington Ag.

Center (RHC), ers. **American Redstart**: 12 Apr (3) Putnam Co (SJS, EKL), new early date for Co. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 6 Apr (1) Radnor L (David Kirschke, JKS), ers. **Worm-eating Warbler**: 8 Apr (1) Radnor L (JKS, Dave Hawkins), ers. **Swainson's Warbler**: 22 Apr (1) Ellington Ag. Center (JKS); 29 Apr-17 May (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC, m.ob.). **Ovenbird**: 11 Apr (1) Ellington Ag. Center (RHC), ers. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 22 Mar (1) Maury Co (TE), ers. **Kentucky Warbler**: 12 Apr (1) Putnam Co (EKL, SJS), ers. **Connecticut Warbler**: 3 May (1) Cheatham Co (Joe Stone, Sabin Thompson); 10 / 17 May (1 / 2) Shelby Bottoms (PDC et al.); 17 May (1) Murfreesboro (TJW); 20-21 / 28 May (1-2) Radnor L (JKS). **Mourning Warbler**: 2 / 12 May (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC); 3 May (1) Beaman Park, Davidson Co (CAS); 10 / 20 / 31 May (6 / 2 / 1) Radnor L (CAS / JKS / CAS); 10 May (1) Clarksville (Mike O'Malley); 17 May (1) Hardin Co (RHC). **Common Yellowthroat**: 8 Apr (1 each) Fort Campbell / Hohenwald (DMo / WMP), ers. **Hooded Warbler**: 8 Apr (1 each) Radnor L / DeKalb Co (FCF / Carol Williams, JCF), ers. **Canada Warbler**: 20 Apr (1) Hardin Co (TE), ers

Tanager-Siskin: **Scarlet Tanager**: 8 Apr (1) Hohenwald (WMP), ers. **Bachman's Sparrow**: 16 / 20 May (1 each) Fort Campbell (DMo), first one in Stewart Co portion. **Lark Sparrow**: 30 Apr (1) Rutherford Co (SGS); 15 May (2) Wilson Co (SGS); 16 May (2) Hardin Co (Allan Trently). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 11 Apr (7) Fort Campbell (DMo); 12 Apr (1 each) DeKalb Co / Warren Co (JCF / SNM). **Henslow's Sparrow**: 11 Apr thru season (36 max) Fort Campbell (DMo); 12 Apr (1) DeKalb Co (JCF); 26 Apr (1) Jackson Co (SJS, Douglas Downs), first Co record; 10 May (5) Lewis Co (WMP). **White-throated Sparrow**: 25 May (1) Lynchburg, Moore Co (Laura McCall), lrs. **Blue Grosbeak**: 14 Apr (1) Putnam Co (Janie Finch), ers. **Indigo Bunting**: 13 Apr (2) Nashville (Karen Campbell), ers. **Dickcissel**: 29 Apr (3) Fort Campbell (DMo, SGS), ers. **Bobolink**: 4 May (38) Old Hickory L (CAS); 4 / 10 May (30 / 54) Williamson Co (Linda V. Kelly / JKS); 15 May (12) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Rusty Blackbird**: 21 Mar (20) Warren Co (SNM), lrs. **Orchard Oriole**: 11 Apr (1) Putnam Co (Barbara Stedman), ers. **Baltimore Oriole**: 19 Apr (1) Old Hickory L (CAS), ers. **Purple Finch**: 26 Apr (1) Radnor L (PDC), lrs. **Pine Siskin**: 12 May (1) Nashville (Michael L. Bierly), lrs.

Locations: Ellington Agriculture Center-in Davidson Co; Fort Campbell-in Montgomery Co (unless otherwise stated); Hohenwald-in Lewis Co; Old Hickory L-in Davidson & Sumner Cos; Radnor L-in Davidson Co; Shelby Park & Bottoms-in Davidson Co; Woods Reservoir-in Franklin Co.

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CUMBERLAND PLATEAU / RIDGE & VALLEY REGION — Temperatures in March were near normal, but both April and May were warmer than normal

without any real cold snaps to delay vegetative growth or avian migration. Rainfall was near average for the first two months of the season, but May received only about half of the usual amount. Insufficient precipitation since the severe drought of last year resulted in the upper TVA lakes, generally upstream from Knoxville, failing to reach their normal seasonal levels by the end of May. Low rainfall and destruction of beaver dams at Standifer Gap Marsh resulted in good shorebird habitat, but made the marsh unsuitable for nesting by Least Bittern and Virginia Rail.

There was a decent shorebird flight, with multiple sightings of Willets and White-rumped Sandpipers. Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were found two or three times apiece. Fairly good numbers of warblers were found, especially for the seldom seen Connecticut and rare-in-spring Wilson's. Notable finds this season included Eared Grebe, Mississippi Kite, Northern Goshawk, Common Moorhen, Red-necked and Wilson's Phalaropes, "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Painted Bunting.

Goose-Heron: **Ross's Goose**: 3-4 Mar (1) Washington Co (Don Holt, RLK); 7 Mar (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG); 8 Mar (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Gadwall**: 10 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (DA), late. **Blue-winged Teal**: 7 Apr (400+) Upper Douglas L. (MBS, LJG), max. **Green-winged Teal**: 1 Mar (155) Upper Douglas L. (MBS, LJG), max. **Canvasback**: 4 Mar (26) Marion Co (Rick Houlk). **Greater Scaup**: 16 Apr (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG). **White-winged Scoter**: 2 Mar (1) Crossville (Damien Simbeck). **Hooded Merganser**: 28 May (1) Washington Co (GDE), lrs. **Common Merganser**: 2 Mar (2 males) Austin Springs (RLK), only report. **Horned Grebe**: 16 May (2) Austin Springs (RLK), late. **Eared Grebe**: 29 Mar (3) Nickajack L., Marion Co (DRJ, RJH, DCC), first Co record. **American Bittern**: 24 Mar (1) Meadowview Marsh, Sullivan Co (Bill Grigsby et al.); 20 Apr (1) Kyker Bottoms, Blount Co (David Trently et al.); 26 Apr (1) Austin Springs (GDE et al.); 3 May (1) Wal-Mart Dist. Center, Greene Co (DHM); 5-13 May (1) John Sevier L. (SHu). **Great Blue Heron**: 21 Mar (12 nests) Bristol (Fred Martin), new site. **Little Blue Heron**: 26 Apr (1) John Sevier L. (SHu). **Cattle Egret**: 10 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (David Spicer); 16 Apr (5) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG); 3 May (1) Knox Co (Jean Alexander, David Johnson). **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: 11 Apr (2) Standifer Gap Marsh (Charles Dean, DRJ). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 20 Mar thru season (8 nests at 2 sites) Kingsport (RAP / RLK); 19 May (3) Hamilton Co (KAC).

Osprey-Coot: **Osprey**: thru season (8 nests) Upper Douglas L. (MBS, LJG). **Mississippi Kite**: 14 May (2) Conklin, Washington Co (FJA, SGS et al.), third Co record. **Bald Eagle**: 19 Apr (2 ad, 2 im) Lick Cr. Bottoms WMA, Greene Co (DHM); 6 May (1 im) Nolichucky R., Washington Co (RLK). **Northern Goshawk**: 9 Mar (1) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co (John Moyle, Andrew Block). **Merlin**: 2 Mar (1) John Sevier L. (SHu); 16 Mar (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG); thru 20 Mar (1-2) Kingsport (RAP), departure of wintering birds; 5 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (KAC, Loribeth Aldrich).

Peregrine Falcon: 8 Mar (1) western Sullivan Co (GDE); 10 May (1) Brainerd Levee (KAC), only Chattanooga area sighting. **Virginia Rail**: 15 / 29 Mar (1 / 3) Walmart Dist. Center, Greene Co (DHM); 11 Apr (2) Standifer Gap Marsh (DRJ), only report there. **Sora**: 1 / 27 Apr (2 / 3) Standifer Gap Marsh (DRJ / KAC, DRJ, CDB et al.); 20 Apr (1) Kyker Bottoms, Blount Co (David Trently et al.); 9 May (2) Austin Springs (RLK). **Common Moorhen**: 6-17 May (1) John Sevier L. (SHu); 20 May (1) Oak Ridge, Anderson Co (Kelly Roy). **American Coot**: 30 May (1) Rankin Bottoms (Ben Britton), lrs.

Plover-Tern: **Black-bellied Plover**: 26 Apr (2) Rankin Bottoms (DHM). **Semipalmated Plover**: 10 May (13) Brainerd Levee (KAC), max; 26 May (1) Washington Co (RLK), lrs. **Spotted Sandpiper**: wintering bird lingered thru 18 May at Kingsport (RAP, RLK). **Solitary Sandpiper**: 27 Mar (1) Upper Douglas L. (MBS, LJG), ers; 28 May (1) Greene Co (DHM), lrs. **Willet**: 26 Apr (4) Standifer Gap Marsh (Libby Wolfe, Jimmy Wilkerson, David Spicer); 27 Apr (2 / 55) separate Hamilton Co sites (KAC, DRJ / Libby Wolfe et al.); 29 Apr (4) near Austin Springs (RLK); 4 May (15) Hiwassee Refuge, Meigs Co (Charles & Dreama Dean). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 26 May (1) Kingston Steam Plant (KDE), lrs. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 26 May (167) Kingston Steam Plant (KDE), max; 1 Jun (2 / 4) Greene Co / Washington Co (DHM / Don Holt), lrs. **Western Sandpiper**: 26 Apr (1) Austin Springs (GDE et al.). **Least Sandpiper**: 8 May (200) Kingston Steam Plant (RJH), max. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 8-26 May (3-12) Kingston Steam Plant (RJH, KDE, FLB et al.); 21 May (4) Limestone (RLK); 24 May (2) Greene Co (DHM). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: 21 May (1) Limestone (RLK), new late date in NE Tenn. **Dunlin**: 2 Mar (18) Upper Douglas L. (MBS, LJG), wintering birds; 17 Mar (11) Bradley Co (DCC); 12-13 May (1) Washington Co (B&JP / RLK); 20 May (15) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB et al.). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 8 / 20 May (3 / 7) Kingston Steam Plant (RJH / FLB et al.). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 12 May (1) Washington Co (B&JP). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 27 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (CDB, KAC, DRJ et al.) **Wilson's Snipe**: 29 Mar (66) Greene Co (DHM), max. **Red-necked Phalarope**: 26 May (1) Kingston Steam Plant (KDE-photo). **Wilson's Phalarope**: 11 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (CDB, KAC-photo); 20 May (1) Kingston Steam Plant (FLB et al.). **Caspian Tern**: 19 Apr (1) Warrior's Path SP, Sullivan Co (RBB et al.); 8 May (1) Kingston Steam Plant (RJH); 9 May (6) John Sevier L. (SHu). **Black Tern**: 18 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (David Patterson). **Forster's Tern**: 28 Mar / 26 Apr (40 / 6) John Sevier L. (SHu); 26 Apr (2) Upper Douglas L. (DHM); 10 May (39) Chickamauga L., Hamilton Co (DRJ, RJH).

Cuckoo-Swallow: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 23 Apr (1) Austin Springs (RLK). **Great Horned Owl**: 31 Mar (1-2 yg in old heron nest) Kingsport (David Hunt), second year nesting in now-abandoned Great Blue Heron rookery, herons moved a half mile to new rookery. **Rufous Hummingbird**: 20 Nov 2007 thru 6 Apr (1) Rhea Co (RJH, DRJ, Bill Haley), not banded, but came into ad. male plumage by spring. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: mid May (1) Campbell Co (fide Charles Nicholson).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 10 May (1) Norris Dam, Anderson Co (Carole Gobert); 10 May (1) Craven's House (KAC); 12 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (Janice Chadwell). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 9 May (1) Sewanee, Franklin Co (Jim Peters); 13 May (1) Johnson City (RLK). **Willow Flycatcher**: 10 May (1) Kingsport (RLK); 15 May (1) Washington Co (RLK); both apparently migrants; 17 May (2) Standifer Gap Marsh (Janice Chadwell), only known breeding site in Co. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 22 May (1) South Pittsburg, Marion Co (DCC), return to nesting area. **Loggerhead Shrike**: thru May (1-2 at 3 sites) Washington Co (RLK et al.). **White-eyed Vireo**: 11 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM), ers. **Blue-headed Vireo**: 9 Mar (1) near Vonore, Monroe Co (KTOS), ers. **Warbling Vireo**: 24 Apr thru season (5+) Washington Co (RLK, m.ob.); 2 May thru season (1-2) Kingsport (RLK). **Fish Crow**: 14 Mar thru season (1-7) Knox Co (SHo, Chris Welsh, Marcia Davis). **Common Raven**: 27 Mar (1) Johnson City (RLK); 17 Apr (1) Limestone (RLK, GDE); 12 May (1) Steele Cr. Park, Sullivan Co (LCM). **Bank Swallow**: 11 Apr (3) Standifer Gap Marsh (DRJ), ers.

Nuthatch-Warbler: **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: wintering birds lingered into Apr in several areas. **Brown-headed Nuthatch**: 18 / 21 Apr (pair / nest with 4-5 eggs) Fentress Co (David & Laura Crotser fide SJS), first Co record, northernmost record in state. **Sedge Wren**: 22 Apr (2) Bridgestone-Firestone WMA, White Co (EKL). **Marsh Wren**: 11 Apr / 10 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (DRJ / DA); 12 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 16 Mar (2) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG), ers. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: 21 May (1, banded) Hamilton Co (DA), lrs. **Hermit Thrush**: 30 Apr (1) Knoxville (KDE), lrs. **American Pipit**: 6 May (2) Limestone (RBB), lrs. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 23 Apr (1) Craven's House (KAC), ers. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 6 Apr (1) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (KTOS); 14 Apr (3 banded) Hamilton Co (DA); 16 Apr (1) Greeneville (DHM); 16 Apr (1) Kingsport (RLK); 4 May (1) Knoxville (KDE). **Yellow Warbler**: 17 Apr (1) Greene / Washington Co (DHM / RLK), ers. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 23 Apr / 10 May (1 / 2) Hamilton Co (KAC et al), good number there. **"AUDUBON'S" YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER**: 18 Apr (1 male) Knoxville (KDE). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 28 Mar (1) Campbell Co (Nell Moore), ers. **Pine Warbler**: 7 Mar (1) Johnson City (RLK), ers there. **Blackpoll Warbler**: 29 May (1) Greeneville (DHM), lrs. **Cerulean Warbler**: 13 Apr (6) Hamilton Co (KAC, DRJ), ers & max; none reported in Tri-cities area or Greene Co. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 27 Mar (1) Hamilton Co (DA), ers. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 11 Apr (3) Kinser Park, Greene Co (DHM), ers; 20 Apr (1) John Sevier L. (SHu); 22 Apr (1) Kingsport (RLK), only report in Tri-cities area; 26 Apr (12) Rankin Bottoms (DHM). **Swainson's Warbler**: 3 May (1) Catoosa WMA, Cumberland Co (Barbara Stedman). **Connecticut Warbler**: 10 May (1) Hamilton Co (RJH, DRJ); 11 / 13 May (1) Craven's House (KAC); 15 May (1) Johnson City (FJA, SGS et al.); 21 May (1) Hamilton Co (DA); good showing. **Mourning Warbler**: 10 May (1 / 1) separate Hamilton Co sites (KAC / DRJ, RJH). **Wilson's Warbler**: 5 / 18 May (1) Kingsport (RLK); 5 May (1) Sewanee,

Franklin Co (David Haskell); 13 May (1) Knoxville (KDE); 15 May (1) Craven's House (KAC); better than average spring showing.

Sparrow-Siskin: **American Tree Sparrow**: 5-6 Mar (1, at feeder) Johnson City (RLK, m.ob.), new late date in NE Tenn; unusual occurrence considering there were no winter reports in East or Middle Tenn. **Vesper Sparrow**: 8-29 Mar (1-3) Greene Co (DHM); 28 Mar (4) Austin Springs (RLK); 6 Apr (4) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (KTOS). **Henslow's Sparrow**: 22 Apr (14+) Bridgestone-Firestone WMA, White Co (EKL); 3 May (2) Catoosa WMA, Cumberland Co (Barbara Stedman); 3 May (10) Mayland, Cumberland Co (Joseph Mast). **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: 9 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 19 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM), seldom seen in spring in East Tenn. **Lapland Longspur**: 29 Mar (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Indigo Bunting**: 14 Apr (1) Kingsport (David Hunt), new early date in NE Tenn. **PAINTED BUNTING**: 27 / 30 Mar (1 ad. male) west Knox Co (Ann & Tom Nelson / Marcia Davis, Virginia Fairchild), second or third Co record. **Dickcissel**: 3 May (1) Bible Refuge, Greene Co (DHM); 6 May thru season (2-5 males, 1-2 females) Limestone (RLK, m.ob.). **Bobolink**: 27 Apr (80) Brainerd Levee (KAC, DRJ, Gary Brunvoll), max. **Purple Finch**: small numbers thru late Apr. **Pine Siskin**: 20 Mar (1) Sequatchie Co (CDB), lrs.

Locations: Austin Springs-in Washington Co; Brainerd Levee-in Hamilton Co; Craven's House-unit of Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park in Hamilton Co; John Sevier L.-in Hawkins Co; Kingston Steam Plant-in Roane Co; Limestone-in Washington Co; Rankin Bottoms-in Cocke Co; Standifer Gap Marsh-in Hamilton Co; Upper Douglas L.-in Cocke & Jefferson Cos (may include Rankin Bottoms).

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION — The drought from 2007 continued into the spring. Precipitation was only slightly below normal in March and April. However, May was much drier with nearly a three-inch deficit in rain. Temperatures were slightly below average in March and May, while April was warmer than usual.

Goose-Heron: **Ross's Goose**: 2-12 Mar (1, with band on leg) near Elizabethton (B&JP, TSM, RBB, m.ob.). **Northern Pintail**: 3 Mar (5) South Holston L. (TSM, RBB); 5 Apr (3) Sycamore Shoals SP, Carter Co (RBB). **Redhead**: 1 Mar (86) Watauga L. (TSM, RBB). **Ring-necked Duck**: 1 Mar (211) Watauga L. (TSM, RBB). **Greater Scaup**: 1 Mar (15) Watauga L. (TSM, RBB); 29-30 Mar (2-3) South Holston R. weir, Sullivan Co (Ed Talbot, RLK). **Lesser Scaup**: 1 Mar (32) Watauga L. (TSM, RBB); 26 Apr (17) Ripshin L., Carter Co (FJA et al.). **White-winged Scoter**: 2-22 Mar (1) S. Holston L (Allen Boynton, m.ob.). **Bufflehead**: 6 May (2) Wilbur L., Carter Co

(B&JP), lrs. **Red-breasted Merganser**: 20 Mar-26 Apr (5-23) S. Holston L (RLK, m.ob.); 29 Mar (10) Wilbur L., Carter Co (TSM). **Horned Grebe**: 9 May (2) S. Holston L (RLK), quite late. **Great Egret**: 4 Apr (3) Watauga R. (TSM). **Cattle Egret**: 12 May (1) Watauga R. (B&JP). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 26 Mar thru season (4+ nests at 3 sites) Watauga R. at Elizabethton (RLK, m.ob.).

Osprey-Owl: **Osprey**: 6 Mar (1) Erwin (David Hunt), ers. **Bald Eagle**: 24 May (1 sub-adult) S. Holston L (Ken Hale). **Merlin**: 29 Mar (1) Sycamore Shoals SP, Carter Co (TSM). **Peregrine Falcon**: 4 Mar (1) S. Holston L (Wallace Coffey, Dave Worley); 30 May (2) Rocky Fork, Unicoi Co (Scotty Myers). **Virginia Rail**: 12 Mar / 20 Apr (1) Quarry Bog in Shady Valley, Johnson Co (RLK / RBB); 20 / 26 Apr (1) Orchard Bog in Shady Valley, Johnson Co (RBB). **Laughing Gull**: 20 Apr (1) S. Holston L (RLK, RBB). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 6 Apr (150+) S. Holston L (RLK), max. **Herring Gull**: 12 Apr (5) S. Holston L (LCM, RLK et al.), max. **Caspian Tern**: 12 Apr (3) S. Holston L (RLK et al.). **Common Tern**: 9 / 12 May (1) S. Holston L (RLK). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 29 Apr-2 May (1) Holston Valley (RPL); 13 May (5) Hampton Cr. Cove (FJA, SGS et al.). **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 21 Mar / 13 May (1) Roan Mtn (TSM / FJA, SGS et al.); 26 Apr (2) Unaka Mtn, Unicoi Co (Joe McGuiness).

Flycatcher-Siskin: **Alder Flycatcher**: 13 May (1) Hampton Cr. Cove (FJA, SGS et al.), ers. **Eastern Kingbird**: 13 Apr (1) Cades Cove (SHo), ers. **Blue-headed Vireo**: 22 Mar (2) Weaver's Bend, Cocke Co (Don Holt, Dianne Draper), ers. **Warbling Vireo**: 5 May (1) Watauga R. (TSM, RBB); 6 May (1) Erwin (RLK). **Philadelphia Vireo**: 4 May (1) Roan Mtn (LCM, RBB et al.), rare in spring. **Common Raven**: 21 Mar (1 on nest) Devil's Looking Glass, near Erwin (RLK). **Horned Lark**: 2 Apr (2) Cades Cove (Nell Moore). **Blue-winged Warbler**: 25 Apr / 3 May / 13 May (single sightings) Carter Co (RBB / Gary Wallace et al. / FJA et al.), only reports. **"Brewster's" Warbler**: mid May (1) Hampton Cr. Cove (Nora Schubert); mid May (1) Buck Mtn, Carter Co (Joe McGuiness). **Pine Warbler**: 5 Mar (1) South Holston R. weir, Sullivan Co (John Moyle), ers. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 30 Mar (1) Watauga L. (RBB), ers. **Common Yellowthroat**: 13 Apr (1) Cades Cove (SHo), ers. **Vesper Sparrow**: 25 Apr (2) Round Bald, Roan Mtn (Nora Schubert). **Brewer's Blackbird**: 6 Apr (1) Clingman's Dome, Great Smoky Mtns. National Park (David Trently). **Purple Finch**: 1-18 Apr (78 banded) Holston Valley (RPL). **Red Crossbill**: 25 May (2) Roan Mtn (RLK); 31 May (4+) Great Smoky Mtns. National Park (KTOS). **Pine Siskin**: 1 / 9 Apr (1 banded each date) Holston Valley (RPL).

Locations: Cades Cove -in Great Smoky Mtns. National Park; Erwin-in Unicoi Co; Hampton Cr. Cove-in Carter Co; Holston Valley-in Sullivan Co; Roan Mtn-in Carter Co; S. Holston L-in Sullivan Co; Watauga L-in Carter Co; Watauga R-in Carter Co.

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KTOS-Knoxville chapter, TOS
NTOS-Nashville chapter, TOS